



Youth Leaders
NOT FOLLOWERS

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Our Team



Ground rules*

- Please be respectful of others' opinions, experiences, and voices – be open-minded
- Please feel free to disagree with what we share, but this is a conversation and not a debate
- Please be mindful of how much you talk, so others can have a chance to interact as well
- Please be understanding that this virtual format does not allow for as much interaction as we would like
- Please ask questions whenever you need to, we plan to have a Q&A at the end too
- Smile and have fun – *“No laughing, no learning...” Dr. Jane Vella*

*for those of you are rebels like Aaron, you can substitute the word rules for “guidelines”

Outcomes and Expectations

- Participants will expand their understanding of leadership development with youth to include critical pedagogy
- Participants will examine the capacity and potential of youth in leadership through an anti-ageist lens
- Participants will explore the benefits and challenges of adopting a youth development approach that leverages the potential of youth

What do you hope to get from our time together?

“I shouldn’t be up here. I should be back at school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words.”

-Greta Thunberg, to the United Nations (Lang, 2019)



Discussion Questions

- What does Greta's statement make you think or feel?
- Describe a student you know that has a passion and vision like Greta Thunberg.





Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump

Follow



So ridiculous. Greta must work on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend! Chill Greta, Chill!

Roma Downey ✓ @RealRomaDowney

Congrats @GretaThunberg twitter.com/time/status/12...

4:22 AM - 12 Dec 2019

Discussion Questions

- What does former President Trump's comment make you think or feel?
- Describe an adult, leader or institution in your context that undervalues the potential youth leadership.



Context: Our journey in student leadership development

- Born out of our origin story and community organizing
- We asked parents the question, “What keeps you up at night?”
- We also listened to students and their concerns which resulted in:
 - **Increased Safety** - the construction of a turnaround lane in front of the school
 - **Better education** - a qualified Spanish teacher hired
 - **Access to Mental Health Resources** - the opening of Lake Behavioral Health and beds for adolescents
- But...we realized that while we were listening to our students, we were not equipping them to be leaders

3

Challenges
To Mitigate



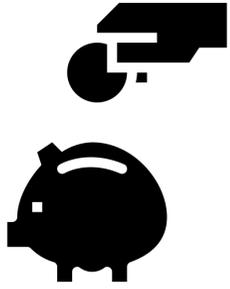
In Youth
Leadership
Development

3

Challenges
To Mitigate



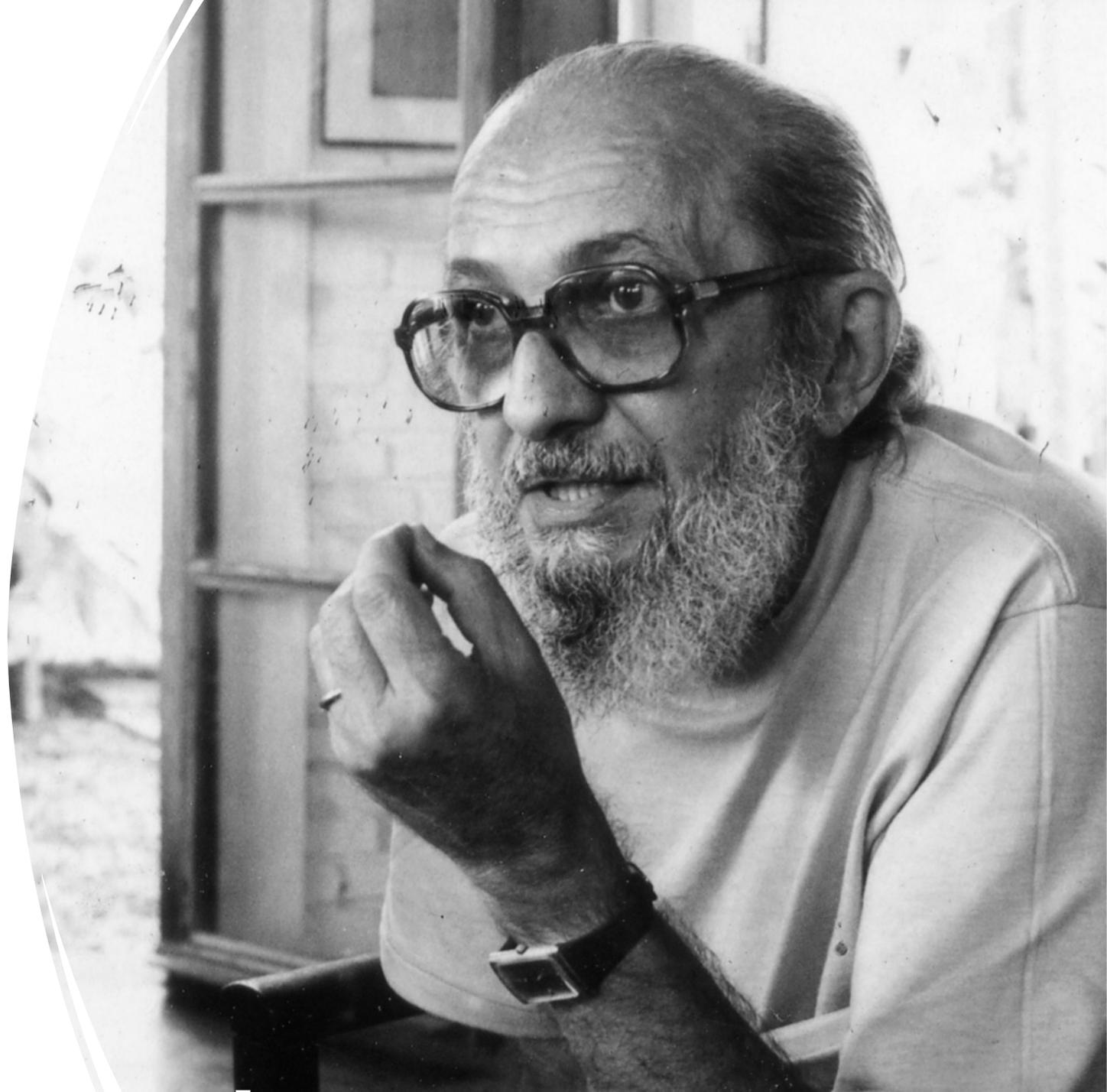
1. Most leadership development mirrors significant pedagogical flaws still too common in our systems



Pedagogy of the Oppressed

“In the banking concept of education, knowledge is a gift bestowed by those who consider themselves knowledgeable upon those whom they consider to know nothing. Projecting an absolute ignorance onto others, a characteristic of the ideology of oppression, negates education and knowledge as processes of inquiry. The teacher presents himself to his students as their necessary opposite; by considering their ignorance absolute, he justifies his own existence.”

- Paulo Freire



3

Challenges
To Mitigate



2. Empowerment is such an overused term, but it is imperative that we deal with power dynamics if we are going to facilitate leadership development with students

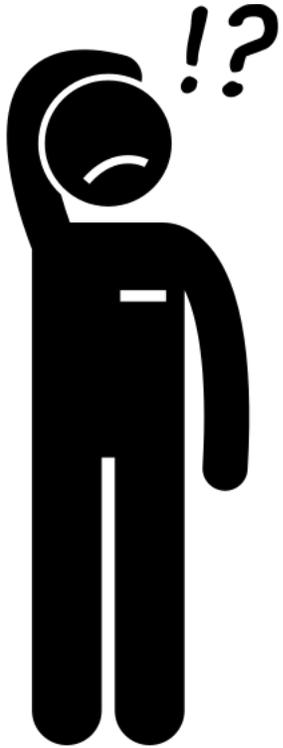
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Challenges
To Mitigate



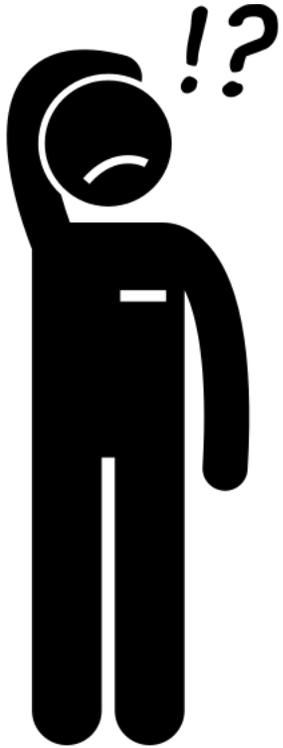
3. Although most of us work in a context where we are fighting against systemic racism, we still many times exhibit an ageist tendency toward youth and leadership

What do we teach?



- Leadership theories and styles - transactional vs transformational
- Evaluation of the question: “Can anyone be a leader?”
- Mitigating the reductionist view of leadership - “leadership is influence”
- Leadership and its relationship with
 - social change/justice
 - ethics

What do we
teach?



Hard (practical) skills vs Soft skills

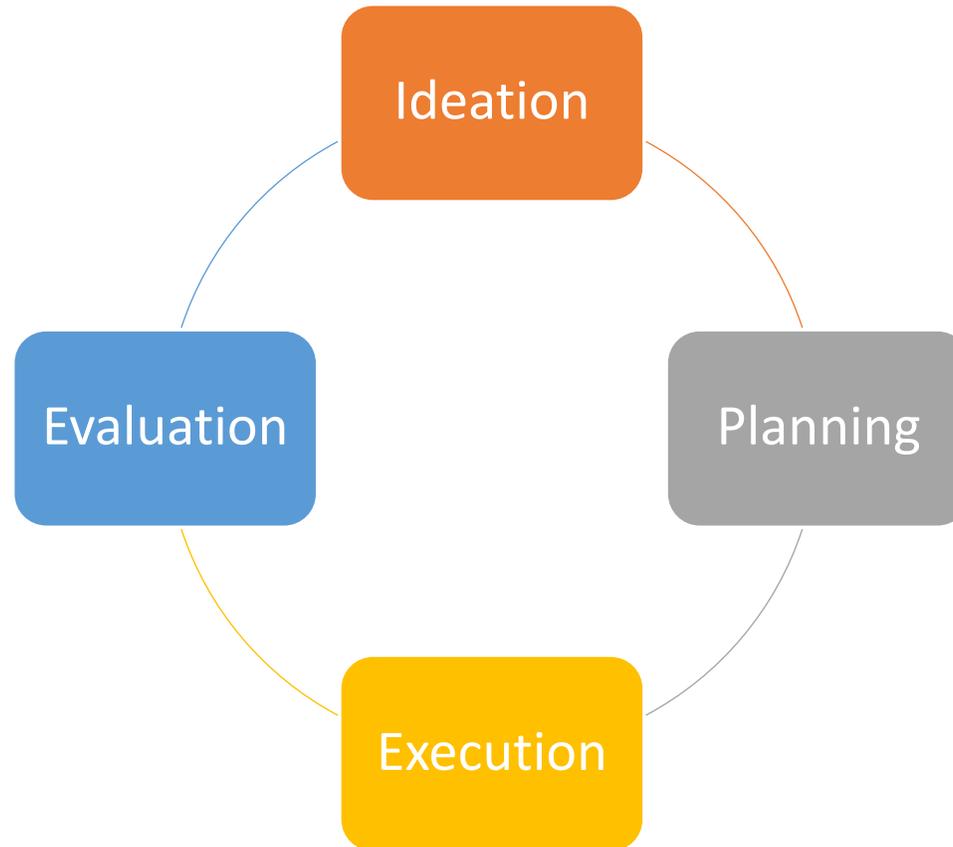
- Project management
- Fundraising
- Community relations and networking
- Financial due diligence
- Strategic Planning

How do we
teach?



- Community organizing as a model for youth leadership
- Student-driven learning
- Experiential learning (Skills and Attitude)
- Helping/Support roles - Coaching, mentoring, and consulting

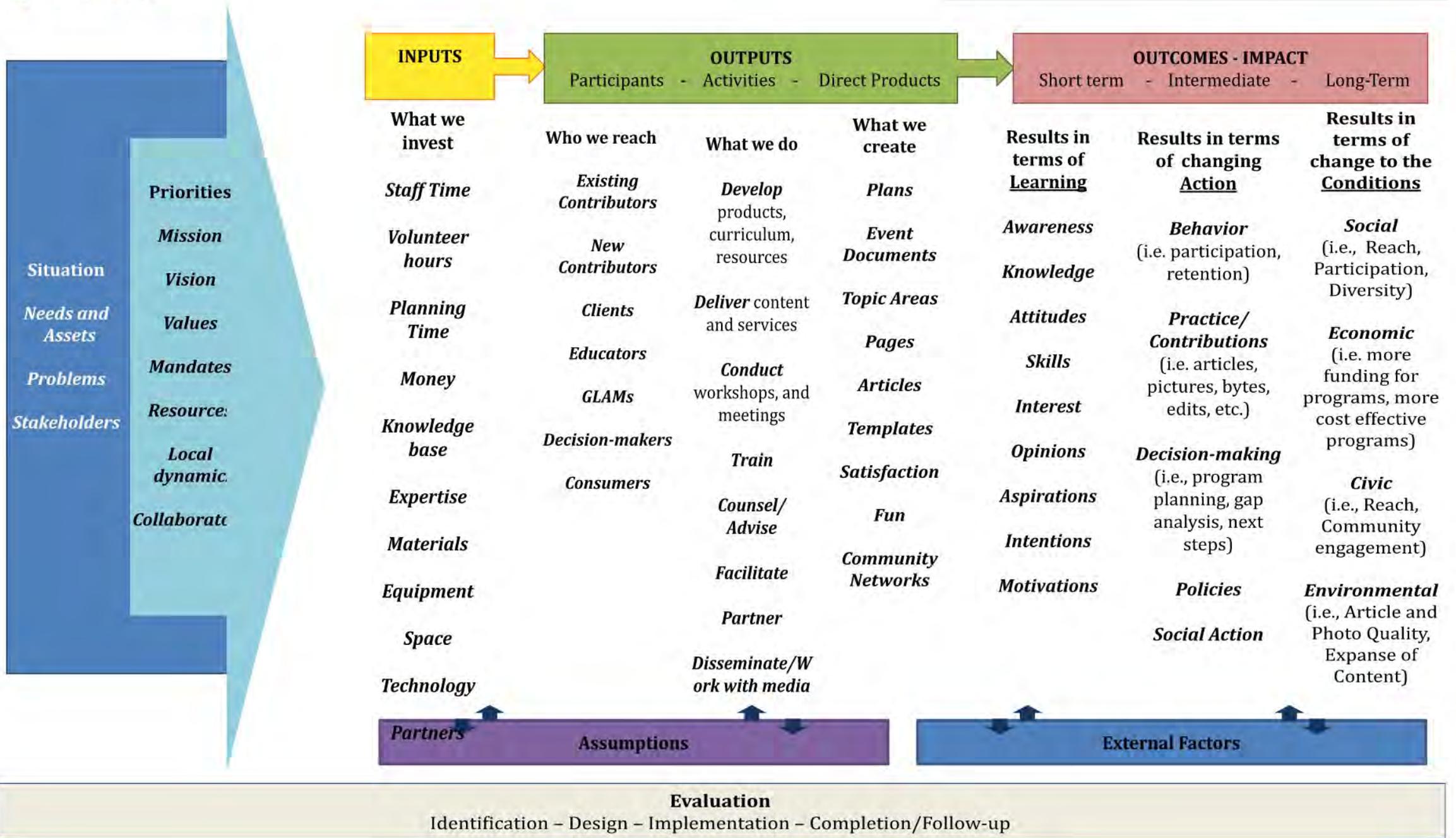
Community Action Plan



Ideation

- What makes you angry?
- What breaks your heart?
- What wakes you up at night?
- What make the most difference for your friends, family or community?
- Where do you see injustice? Inequality? Oppression?
- What demands change?

Logic Model

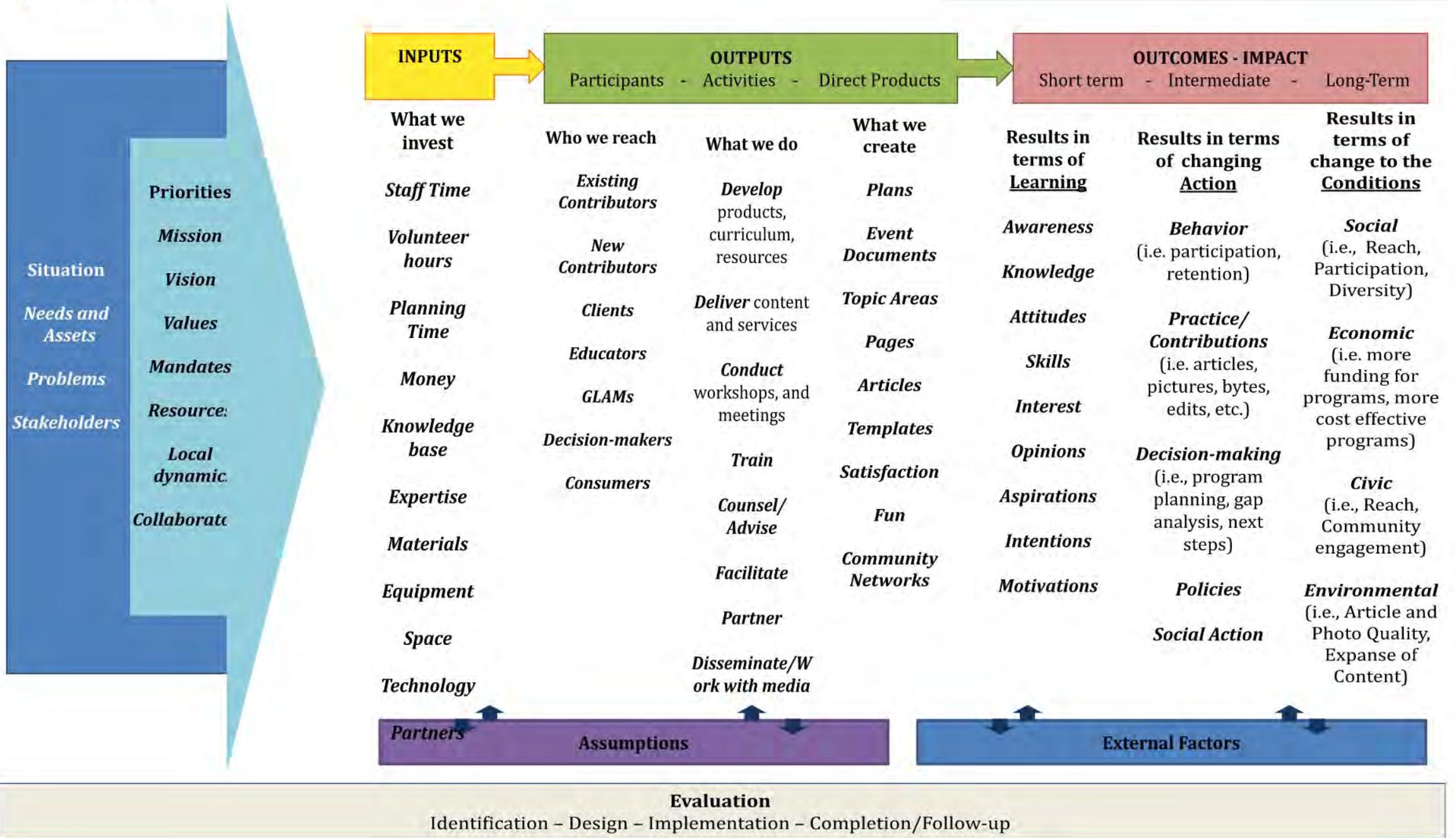


Situation

Inadequate and unsafe facilities at the school:

- There are often rats in the classroom,
- The AC frequently does not work
- Sometimes there are not enough chairs/desk
- The building looks rundown and depressing
- It is not an inspiring learning environment

Logic Model



It's about the **student**, NOT the program

Giving away **control** and **power**

Believing in **capacity** and **ability**

Focusing on **ambition** and **passion**

Encouraging **self-advocacy** and **agency**

Providing **feedback** and **encouragement**

Promoting **dreaming** and **risk-taking**

Celebrating **effort** and **success**



Debrief Questions

- What do you want to remember?
- What do you want to do?





END OF PRESENTATION

NO QUESTIONS THANK YOU!